CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Poland

SUBJECT Power Plant in Chorzow

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This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. The Chorzow power plant is located a few kilometers north of the city of Chorzow in a suburb known as Chorzow I. It lies directly beside the Huta Kosciuszko steel plant, which is believed to utilize a large percentage of the electricity produced in the power plant. The only other electricity-producing installations in the area are the power plants at Mechtal (Miechowice) and Schomberg (Szombierki), both of which are near Beuthen (Bytom). Power plants called Chorzow I, Chorzow II, and Chorzow III had never been heard of and it was believed that no such installations are located in the area.

2. The Chorzow power plant presently employs about 990 men, exclusive of the guard and security force. Its present capacity is 108 KVA but in case of emergency the capacity might be increased to some extent. There are no signs of subterranean construction in the area.

3. The power plant contains between 18 and 30 steam boilers. Six of these boilers are located in one boiler house, 12 in another, and 12 more are believed to be located in a third.

4. In the first of these boiler houses the following six boilers are located:

   a. Three Borsig Flammrohr boilers. These are old boilers and were installed at least 20 years ago but they are still operating flawleasly. They are the best boilers in the power plant and are mainly responsible for keeping the power plant in operation. These boilers have a capacity of 100 t/h, atmospheric pressure of 62 Atü, and a maximum temperature of about 490°C.

   b. Two Babcock boilers. These are also old boilers and were first installed about 20 years ago but despite their age they are still in good operating condition. They have a capacity of 100 t/h, atmospheric pressure of 62 Atü, and a maximum temperature of about 490°C.

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c. One boiler from the Pauker Werke in Vienna. This boiler was delivered and installed only about Dec. 1953, but has never operated according to expectations. It has already had two explosions and has been laid up for repairs much of the time. It has a rated capacity of 150 t/h, atmospheric pressure of 62 Atü, and a maximum temperature of about 490°C.

5. The second boiler house contains 12 old Wanderrost boilers which are believed to have been delivered shortly after World War I by the German firm Steinmueller. These boilers are believed to have a rated capacity of 24 t/h but they are in extremely poor operating condition and contribute very little to the operating potential of the power plant. The workmen at the plant call the boiler house in which they are located "the graveyard" and maintain that of the 12 boilers at least 11 are always laid up for repairs. Detailed plans have been made for tearing out and scrapping these old Wanderrost boilers and replacing them with boilers of modern construction. Thus far no definite steps have been undertaken to obtain sales bids for new boilers, however, because the Polish government does not have the hard currency to expend for this purpose.

6. A third boiler house is believed to be located in a separate building in the power plant. It is believed to contain 12 more Wanderrost boilers. No further information is available about the operating condition of these boilers.

7. The Chorzow power plant contains between 8 and 12 turbines. All of these turbines are located in a large hall in the same building with the first and second boiler houses. Of the eight turbines definitely known to be in the power plant, about three are of Siemens-Halske design; about three are of AEG design; one, which is now undergoing repairs, is a Swedish turbine; and the last is a brand-new Escher-Wyss machine. The Escher-Wyss turbine and one of the Siemens-Halske turbines have a rated capacity of 50 KVA each. Nothing is known about the capacity or operating condition of the others.

8. The fuel used in the power plant is mostly cheap coal dust which is delivered to the plant by a narrow-gauge railway and also, occasionally, by truck. The coal trucks and trains always arrive at the plant from the direction of Katowice. Before the coal dust is delivered to the plant it has been soaked with water and allowed to dry out into powder or crumbly lumps. Despite the poor quality of this fuel it has a heating value of up to 5,000 calories. Sometimes loads of coal chunks are also delivered and burned in the power plant.

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1. Guard room.

2. Main gate on street from Chorzow.

3. Supply room, canteen and laboratory.

4. Unkown.

5. Part of building believed to be a third boiler house containing 12 Wanderrost boilers.

6. First boiler house containing six boilers. Water and steam pipes and ash grates for the boilers are located in the basement of this building.

7. Three Borsig boilers.

8. Two Babcock boilers.

9. One Paukerwerke boiler.

10. Piping system, steam collector, reducer stations, condensors, etc.

11. Turbine hall containing 8 to 12 turbines.

12. Turbines.

13. Control station.

14. Telephone central.

15. Transformer stations and calling towers are located some distance from the back of this building.

16. The "graveyard", a boiler house containing 12 old Wanderrost boilers.

17. Offices for directors and administrative staff.

18. Courtyard.

19. Small buidings, contents unknown.

20. Offices for technical employees.

21. Narrow-gauge rail line which brings coal to power plant.

22. Gate.

23. Coal piles are located some distance from buildings.

The entire power plant is surrounded by a heavy wire fence patrolled by guards.

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